



Colin O'CONNOR

FIEAust

INDUCTED IN 2021

Colin O'Connor graduated with a Bachelor's in engineering with first class honours from The University Queensland (UQ) in 1949. He went on to receive a Doctor of Philosophy from in UQ And a Diploma in aeronautics from Imperial College London in 1961.

Colin is a well-respected and long-term academic from the University of Queensland. His work with the University extended from 1954 to 1989 and during his tenure he was an inspiration to a generation of engineering graduates and postgraduates with his devotion to the technical appreciation of the engineering world. He was a prolific writer of technical books, articles, and papers.

Between 1965-1967 Colin was an external examiner at the Royal Military College Duntroon. Colin provided advice to the Brisbane City Council on the management of three of its Brisbane River crossings including Story Bridge, William Jolly Bridge and Walter Taylor Bridge. Colin published articles in the Queensland Roads (1983) exploring early Queensland Road Bridges which raised the profile of heritage bridges within the Department of Main Roads.

After retiring from the University of Queensland in 1989, he continued with providing expert advice and in the writing and publication of books and papers. He wrote "Early Queensland Road Bridges" in the Local Government Engineers Association of Queensland Journal in 1984. In recognition of his services to Queensland and education he was awarded the first Doctor in Engineering (honorary) conferred by the University of Southern Queensland in 2001.

Colin is a well-respected worldwide expert on bridge design and construction with the publication of 4 major books which provide a reference library throughout the world on this subject. These books were published throughout Colin's career and into his retirement years. Colin wrote the first conservation plans for the Story Bridge (1992), William Jolly Bridge (1994) and the Walter Taylor Bridge (2003) in Brisbane.

Being curious about the history and the design of the Walter Taylor Bridge, Colin researched and published a Technical Paper in the Queensland Division Engineering Update January to March 1998. This included interviews with descendants of those involved in the bridge's design and construction.

Colin is a Fellow of the Institution of Engineers Australia. He was awarded the Chapman medal in 1955, was the Eminent Civil Engineering Speaker for the Institution 1988 and was awarded the John Monash medal in 2003. In the early 1980s, Colin made a major study of Australian historic bridges for the Australian Heritage Commission and Engineers Australia's National Heritage Panel, leading to the publication in 1983 of the Register of Australian Historic Bridges. He presented the Hawken Address, "The Engineer, Bridges and Society" on 27 October 1995.